SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #30 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:
1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct. Indus Valley Civilization was predominantly a secular civilization**. There were no temples. There were no religious structures of any kind except the Great Bath.**
However, religion was a part of the Harappan life. The chief male deity was Pasupati, (proto-Siva) represented in seals as sitting in a yogic posture with three faces and two horns. He is surrounded by four animals (elephant, tiger, rhino, and buffalo each facing a different direction). Two deer appear on his feet. The chief female deity was the Mother Goddess represented in terracotta figurines. In latter times, Linga worship was prevalent. Trees and animals were also worshipped by the Harappans. They believed in ghosts and evil forces and used amulets as protection against them.
Statement 2 is correct. A **piece of woven cotton has been recovered from Mohenjo-Daro. Weavers wove cloth of cotton and wool. Spindle whorls were used for spinning.**
During this period, the main crops grown were wheat and barley besides sesame, mustard and **cotton.** Cotton was used for making textiles. Main exports were several agricultural products such as wheat, barely, peas, oil seeds and a variety of finished products including **cotton goods**, pottery, beads, terracotta figures and ivory products.
Source: UPSC 2011

Q.2) Which among the following describe the contemporary culture of people of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) and the Mesopotamia?
1. The writing system was well developed in IVC, but was absent in Mesopotamia.
2. Social stratification is seen in both Mesopotamia and IVC.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Being one of the well-developed civilizations, both Mesopotamia and Indus valley Civilization were culturally very rich and there are lot of evidences that throw light on the then contemporary culture.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Indus Script is the writing system developed by the Indus Valley Civilization** and it is the earliest form of writing known in the Indian subcontinent. C**uneiform is a method of Ancient Mesopotamian writing that was used to write different languages** in the ancient period. Writing was invented multiple times in different places in the world. One of the earliest written scripts is cuneiform, which first developed in ancient Mesopotamia between 3400 and 3100 BCE.

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Statement 2 is correct: There is evidence that **social stratification was present in both IVC and Mesopotamia.** Some scholars point to varying house sizes and varied heights of structures in IVC to suggest that different social classes occupied different levels in the cities. Mesopotamia's social hierarchy too can be divided into royalty, upper class, middle class, and lower class.
Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6

Q.3) Which among the following is **incorrect** about the features of the Indian Mesolithic Age?
a) The use of bow and arrow was not found during this period.
b) A shift from big animal hunting to small animal hunting and fishing can be observed.
c) Domestication of animals and horticulture started in this period.
d) Small stone tools, called Microliths, can be seen in usage.

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age falls roughly from **10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C.** It was the transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age.
Options a is incorrect and Options b and c are correct: The hunting-gathering pattern of life continued during the Mesolithic period. However, there seems to have been **a shift from big animal hunting to small animal hunting and fishing**. The **use of bow and arrow also began during this period**. Also, there began a tendency to settle for longer periods in an area. Therefore, **the domestication of animals, horticulture, and primitive cultivation started**. Animal bones are found in these sites and these include dog, deer, boar, and ostrich.
Option d is correct: Tiny Stone tools are found to be used during Mesolithic period. They are called microliths.
Source: Class 11th History Chapter-2 Tamil Nadu Board

Q.4) Which among the following is considered as the earliest known evidence of a mother goddess shrine in India?
a) Fire altars of Kalibangan
b) Site of Surkotada
c) Dhauli Elephant
d) Stone at Baghor Site

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Option a is incorrect: At **Kalibangan, fire altars have been discovered**, similar to those found at Lothal. It is argued that they serve a ritualistic one. These **altars suggest fire worship. However, they are not the earliest evidence of a shrine a**s they belong to Harappan period.
Option b is incorrect: **Surkotada** is an archaeological site located in Kutch of Gujarat. It **belongs to the Indus Valley civilization (IVC).** It is **famous for being a port city** not for evidence of Shrine.
Option c is incorrect: Dhauli Elephant is associated with much later Mauryan period and it is also not of the nature of a Shrine.
Option d is correct: **Baghor site has been interpreted as the earliest mother goddess shrine in the Indian subcontinent**. It is about **11000 years old.** This is a particular stone, which has three concentric triangular striations etched into it. This stone, containing three triangles embedded in one another, is decorated with different colors and striking patterns. The local tribes in the area even till today pray to the same kind of

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triangular stones. They call it 'Mai,' or, 'Mother Goddess.' This was found near Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh.

Source: Class 11th History Chapter-2 Tamil Nadu Board
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/A-modern-shrine-at-Baghor-containing-similar-stones-courtesy-Department-of-Ancient_fig9_308724210

Q.5) Which of the following can be considered as the advantages of promoting Cactus Cultivation?
1. It may help in reducing the crude oil imports of India.
2. It is an animal feeder crop thus helps in alleviating a shortage of animal feed in severe droughts.
3. It can be used as a natural fence to prevent stray animals from entering fields.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Cactus, often referred to as the "**green gold" of the desert**, has the potential to change the lives of farmers and contribute to the rural economy. India is looking to replicate available global models to commercially grow cactus on degraded land, eyeing its multiple uses as **biofuel, food, fodder and biofertilizer.**
Statement 1 is correct: Cactus can be used as a source of biofuel, which is a renewable energy source made from plant matter or other organic material. The government is committed to **reducing fuel imports through biofuel production** and it believes that cactus cultivation can help to achieve these goals.
Statement 2 is correct: Cactus can be used as **animal feed,** especially for livestock in arid or semi-arid regions where other types of feed may not be readily available. Thus, it can alleviate a shortage of animal feed in severe droughts.
Statement 3 is correct: Cactus can be used as a **natural fence to prevent stray animals from entering fields.** Additionally, it can be used as a s**ource of bio-fertilizer**, which is a type of organic fertiliser made from plant or animal matter. Thus, it can help to improve soil health and increase crop yields.
Source: https://indiacsr.in/cactus-a-prickly-solution-for-indias-degraded-land-and-energy-needs/
https://www.google.com/search?q=cactus+absorber+of+CO2+Nabard&oq=cactus+absorber+of+CO2+Nabard&aqs=chrome..69i57j33i160.8078j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Cactus%20pear%20plantations%20can%20function%20not%20only%20as%20a%20water%20reserve%20but%20also%20absorb%20carbon%20dioxide%20in%20arid%20and%20semi%2Darid%20regions

Q.6) Consider the following statements with reference to the Chalcolithic period in India:
1. Both Copper and bronze were used in the Chalcolithic period.
2. The remains of Camel have been found from this period.
3. Both wheat and rice were produced during this period.
4. People worshipped the Mother Goddess during this period.
Which of the above given statements are correct?
a) 1 and 4 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 2, and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
With the end of the Neolithic Age, several cultures started using metal, mostly copper and low-grade bronze. The **culture based on the use of copper and stone tools was termed as Chalcolithic** meaning stone-copper Phase.
Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The new technology of smelting metal ore and crafting metal artifacts is an important development in human civilization during Chalcolithic period. But the use of stone tools was not given up. **Copper and bronze were widely used in the Chalcolithic period**. People travelled for a long distance to obtain metal ores. **People of Chalcolithic period domesticated several animals. Remains of Cows, Sheep, goats, pigs, buffaloes as well as camel have been found.** Some remains are also found belonging to either horse or wild ass. These remains are found in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
Statement 3 is correct: People of the **Chalcolithic period grew rice, wheat, Bajra and several lentils such as Masur, black gram, green gram and grass pea**. Most of these grains have been found at sites near Navdatoli situated on the banks of Narmada River
Statement 4 is correct: Terracota figures of women suggest that the chalcolithic people venerated the mother goddess. Some unbaked nude clay figurines too were used for worship. A figure of mother goddess similar to that found in Western Asia has been found in Inamgaon, Maharashtra.
Source: Old NCERT Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-4

Q.7) Consider the following statements with reference to Indus Valley Civilization (IVC):
1. The period of the IVC saw the use of iron implements for agriculture.
2. Tin and copper used in Bronze-making were locally available in abundance.
3. People of Harappa did not use implements of stones as they were proficient with metal tools.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) None of the above

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) was among one of the largest civilizations in ancient era.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The Harappan civilisation belongs to the Bronze Age civilisation and Harappans knew how to make copper bronze tools. Although they produced bronze implements, they needed various kinds of tools for agriculture and craft production. The Harappans used chert blades, copper objects, and bone and ivory tools. **They did not have the knowledge of iron.**

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Statement 2 is incorrect: Bronze is made using tin and copper. **Both of these metals were not easily available in Indus valley and had to be imported from other parts of the country or other regions**. Copper was obtained from Khetri Mines of Rajasthan and tin too was imported from other regions.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Though the people of Harappa were proficient with the usage of the metals, **they did not give up the usage of implements of stones** and created many tools out of stone. These are widely found in various IVC sites.
Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6

Q.8) The sites of Gudiyam Caves, Bori and Hunasagi Valley are prominently associated with which of the following periods in Indian History?
a) Paleolithic Age
b) Vedic Age
c) Chalcolithic Age
d) Harappan Age

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Gudiyam Caves are rock shelters in South India and known for prehistoric stone tools and culture. They were first identified by British geologist Robert Bruce Foote. This **paleolithic site is situated in the Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu**.
Bori is a town located in Pune district, Maharashtra. It is known for the discovery of some ancient human artefacts. This **site is considered to be one of the earliest lower paleolithic sites in India.**
The **Hunasagi** Valley is in Yadgir district in Karnataka. Its importance lies in the fact that it is the location of a number of **early Paleolithic sites**. A large number of stone tools and weapons have been discovered from this area which suggests that it was habitat as well as a factory for making equipment during the Paleolithic age.
Source: Class 11th History Chapter-2 Tamil Nadu Board

Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to Mesolithic and Neolithic people in India:
1. The Neolithic people in India lived in houses mostly built by burnt bricks.
2. The Neolithic people cultivated Ragi and Horsegram.
3. The Mesolithic people in India also used tools made from bones.
4. The burial of dead along with artifacts such as shells were seen in Mesolithic Age.
Which of the above given statements are correct?
a) 2 and 4 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The **Neolithic Age, which means New Stone Age**, was the last and third part of the Stone Age. In India, it spanned from around **7,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.** On the other hand, **Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age** falls roughly from **10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C.**
Statement 1 is incorrect: The Neolithic Age is mainly characterized by the development of settled agriculture and the use of tools and weapons made of polished stones. Neolithic people began a sedentary lifestyle in India and they were also the **first to use houses of unburnt bricks (or mud bricks)** such

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as **Mehargarh town** which is considered as the first Neolithic settlement in India. The evidence of **burnt bricks found first around 3600 BC belonging to the early Harappan age.**

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Neolithic people were the **first to practice settled agriculture in India** and produced various crops such as **Ragi and horse gram,** rice and wheat. In fact, the cultivation of plants and domestication of animals led to the emergence of village communities based on sedentary life. **Wheel pottery was invented in India around 5000 BC** i.e. during the middle Neolithic period but it was not widely used. The traditional method of handmade pottery continued and hence during Neolithic times **both wheels made and handmade potteries were used.** Artifacts of bone and deer antlers in a large morphological variety have been unearthed in many Mesolithic settlements. **Bone and antler tools were widely used by the Mesolithic people.**

Statement 4 is correct: Animal bones are found in Mesolithic sites and these include dog, deer, boar and ostrich. Occasionally, **burials of the dead along with some microliths and shells seem to have been practiced in this age** as well.

Source: Class 11th History Chapter-2 Tamil Nadu Board and Old NCERT- RS Sharma- Chapter-4

Q.10) With reference to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.
2. Its role includes monitoring the implementations of the provisions mentioned in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3. Its definition of 'child' includes all children below the age of eighteen years.
4. It developed a portal called 'GHAR' to monitor the restoration and repatriation of children.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up as a **statutory body in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Commission is mandated under section 13 of CPCR Act, 2005 to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights. These child rights are as **enshrined in the Constitution of India and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

Statement 3 is correct: As per the definition of **children by the commission it includes all children below the age of 18.** It looks after the matters related to deprivation and violation of child rights, non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children etc,

Statement 4 is correct: The NCPCR has developed and **launched The GHAR (GO Home and Re-Unite) portal to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children.** One of the features of this scheme is digital tracking and monitoring of children who are in the Juvenile Justice system and have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District.

Source: https://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Report
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1882217

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Q.11) The "Dharma" and "Rita" depict a central Idea of ancient Vedic civilization of India. In this context, consider the following statements:
1. Dharma was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.
2. Rita was the fundamental moral law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct. Dharma is one of the four components of the Purushartha i.e., the aims of life. It signifies the conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others. It signifies behaviors that are considered to be in accord with Rita, the order that makes life and universe possible. It includes duties, rights, laws, conduct, virtues and "right way of living".
Statement 2 is correct. Rita, **in the Vedic religion, was the principle law or natural order which regulates and coordinates the operation of the universe and everything within it.** Rita is ultimately responsible for the proper functioning of the natural, moral and sacrificial orders.
Source) UPSC 2011

Q.12) Consider the following statements with reference to urban architecture and house planning during the Indus Valley Civilization:
1. There was a large-scale use of burnt bricks in construction.
2. An underground drainage system connecting houses to the street drains was present.
3. Circular Brick platforms were seen near granaries.
4. Two-roomed barracks have been found.
5. The houses had wells for water usage.
Which of the above-given statements are correct?
a) 1, 4 and 5 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Harappan culture is distinguished by its system of urban and house planning.
Statement 1 is correct: There was a large-scale use of burnt bricks in almost all kinds of constructions including houses, granaries, bathhouse etc.
Statement 2 and 3 are correct: One of the remarkable features of IVC was the **underground drainage system connecting all houses to the street drains which were covered by stone slabs** or bricks. There is also seen creation of large granaries in these sites. And **various circular brick platforms can be seen close to these granaries** in IVC sites.
Statement 4 is correct: There is **evidence of threshing the grains** of Wheat and barley near granaries in IVC sites and **creation of two roomed barracks, which were there probably to house labourers**.

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Statement 5 is correct: There was not much furniture in IVC, but the homes had wells for water and bathrooms with pipes that carried waste into the main drains. Some even had toilets, which were the first in the world. Cleanliness was important to the Indus Valley people.
Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6

Q.13) Consider the following statements with reference to the Neolithic Cultures of Northeastern parts of India:
1. Use of Cord-impressed Pottery is one of the key features of these cultures.
2. These cultures are also known for the practice of rice cultivation.
3. They are known for their high-rise burial mounds.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Cord-marked pottery or cord-impressed pottery is an early form of a simple earthenware pottery **made in several sites of the neolithic cultures of Northeastern parts** of India. Neolithic cultures of Northeastern India are **also known for their rice cultivation and usage of shouldered** celt. These sites are found in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other northeastern states as well.

Example of cord-impressed pottery

Statement 3 is incorrect: There is **no evidence of neolithic cultures in Northeastern India to practice the making of high-rise burial mounds** as such.
Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-4

Q.14) Consider the following statements with reference to the economic life during the period of Indus Valley Civilization (IVC):
1. As it occurred after the Chalcolithic Age, Harappans are known to use metallic money.
2. Certain Harappan sites were specialized in the production of specific craft materials.
3. Harappan peoples had trade relations with the people of Mesopotamia.
4. Ivory and timber were exported from Indus Valley Civilization.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 1, 3 and 4 only
b) 2 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2 and 3 only

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Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

There was a great progress in Harappan Age in all spheres of economic activity such as agriculture, industry and crafts and trade.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Harappans are not known to use metallic money. We have no idea about their currency. Most probably they carried out their exchanges through barter.

Statement 2 is correct: Certain Harappan sites specialised in the production of certain craft materials. The following table presents the major centres of craft production.

Material	Site or Source
Shell	Nageshwar and Balakot
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai
Carnelian	Lothal
Steatite	South Rajasthan
Copper	Rajasthan and Oman

Statement 3 is correct: People in Harappan Age practiced navigation on the coast of Arabian Sea. There are **several evidences that people from IVC practiced commerce with the people living near the Tigris and Euphrates**. Many Harappan seals have also been discovered in Mesopotamia. **The Mesopotamia records refer to trade links with Meluha**, which was the ancient name given to the region of Indus Valley. **The Mesopotamian texts refer to two intermediate trading stations between Mesopotamia and Meluha, namely Dilmun and Makan.** Dilmun have been identified with probably being what is known as Bahrain currently.

Statement 4 is correct: Trade between Indus Valley and Mesopotamia appears skewed in IVC's favour. IVC exported **gold jewelry, Ivory seals & boxes, Timber,** Cotton textiles, Copper & bronze fish-hooks, Carnelian & precious stone beads, Live chicken, Shell & bone inlays, and even Water buffaloes.

Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6

Q.15) In the context of Indian polity, which of the following are the benefits enjoyed by a party if it is given the status of 'National Party'?

1. Once granted, the status cannot be revoked by the Election Commission of India.
2. They are eligible to get dedicated broadcasts on state owned television and radio stations.
3. They are allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use throughout the country.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A political party becomes eligible to be recognised as a national party if it fulfils any of the three conditions laid down by the Election commission of India (ECI). The status of national parties grants them certain advantages.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The national party status is not permanent in nature. The ECI has laid down the technical criterion for a party to be recognised as a national party. **A party may gain or lose national party status from time to time**, depending on the fulfilment of the certain conditions. For instance, **ECI following**

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the last Lok Sabha election issued a show cause notice to three national parties **asking them why their national party status should not be withdrawn**.
Statement 2 is correct: The national party status also makes the **party eligible to get a free electoral list, political broadcast in state owned television and radio stations.**
Statement 3 is correct: A National party is entitled to a pan India symbol for its candidates contesting from across the country. This is critical for political parties since a large section of voters in the country are illiterate and depend on symbols to identify the party they want to vote for.
Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/what-does-national-party-status-mean/
Lakshmikanth - Political Dynamics

Q.16) Consider the following statements with reference to religious practices of Indus Valley Civilization:
1. People of Indus Valley Civilization are known to worship trees.
2. There is a prevalence of phallus worship in the Indus Valley Civilization.
3. Amulet wearing is common during this period which is believed to be used for warding off evil forces.
4. Indus Valley people were familiar with the practice of yoga.
Which of the above given statements are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
From the seals, terracotta figurines and copper tablets we get an idea on the religious life of the Harappans.
Statement 1 and 2 are correct: **People of Indus Valley Civilization are known to worship trees and animals.** A plant growing out of the embryo of women is seen in one figurine, representing significance of the plants and trees. The picture of a god is represented on a seal in the midst of branch of Pipal. **There is also a prevalence of phallus worship in the Indus Valley Civilization**. Numerous symbols of phallus and female sex organs made of stone have been found in Harappa, which were probably meant for worship.
Statement 3 is correct: Amulet wearing was very common during Harappan period. Harappans believed that they can be used for warding off evil forces and ghosts.
Statement 4 is correct: The beginnings of Yoga were developed by the Indus-Sarasvati civilization in Northern India over 5,000 years ago. Yogic postures can clearly be seen in many seals that have been found in IVC.
Source: Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/how-ancient-is-yoga-seals-recovered-from-indus-valley-civilisation-sites-tell-a-fascinating-story/

Q.17) Who among the following were the contemporaries of Vardhamana Mahavira?
1. Purana Kassapa
2. Makkhali Gosala
3. Ajita Kesakambalin
4. Bindusara
5. Parshvanatha
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

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c) 2, 4 and 5 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Option 1 is correct: Purana Kassapa was an Indian ascetic teacher who lived around the 6th century BCE and **was a contemporary of Mahavira and the Buddha.**
Option 2 is correct: Makkhali Gosala was considered as the **greatest of the Ajivika sect.** He was a **contemporary of Mahavira**, the last and 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
Option 3 is correct: Ajita Kesakambali was considered to be a **forerunner to the Charvaka school.** He was a **contemporary of the Buddha and Mahavira.** The doctrines of the **Lokayata** school were considerably drawn from Ajita's teachings.
Option 4 is incorrect: Bindusara (who rule between 297 – 273 BCE) was the **second Mauryan emperor of India.** He was the **son of the Chandragupta Maurya and the father of its most famous ruler Ashoka**. Ajivika philosophy reached its zenith during his rule. He was not the contemporary of Mahavira.
Option 5 is incorrect: Parshvanatha was the 23rd of 24 Tirthankaras (supreme preachers of dharma) of Jainism. **Parshvanatha was born 273 years before Mahavira.** He was the spiritual successor of 22nd tirthankara Neminatha. He is popularly seen as a propagator and reviver of Jainism.
Source: 11th TN SCERT - Chapter-Rise of Territorial Kingdoms and New Religious Sects

Q.18) Which among the following can be considered as reason(s) for Mesolithic settlements to be found near hilly areas or hilly river valley areas?
1. These settlements depended upon chips of stone for their tools.
2. These regions had absence of the wild animals.
3. Such areas were easy for transport of material via river streams on boats for trading.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Most of the evidence of settlements of Neolithic and Mesolithic people have been found nearby hills.
Statement 1 is correct: The Neolithic and Mesolithic people did not live far away from the hilly areas. **They habited mainly the hilly river valleys, rock shelters, and the slopes of the hills since they were entirely dependent on weapons and tools made from stone and stone chips.** They inhabited the northern spurs of the Vindhyas, Kashmir, South India, Eastern India, Meghalaya (the north-eastern frontier of India), and Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
Statement 2 is incorrect: There is **no specific reason of hilly regions and hilly river valleys providing protection from animals to the people** of Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements. Also, absence of animals is also an exaggerated statement.
Statement 3 is incorrect: People of Mesolithic settlements were **not advanced enough to transport material from one place to another via river streams on boats**. Thus, this is logically incorrect.
Source: Class 11th History Chapter-2 Tamil Nadu Board and Old NCERT Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-4

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Q.19) During the 6th century BCE, Northern India underwent a remarkable intellectual awakening. In this context, which among the following were the reasons for the growth of new religions during this period?
1. The gap between economic status and social recognition pushed some to question the existing social structure.
2. Absence of equality between Kshatriyas and Brahmanas caused animosity between them.
3. The declining trend of territorial identities made people to associate themselves with Buddhism and Jainism in distant areas.
4. Ritual rigidity advocated by Upanishads pushed many people to adopt heterodox religions.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: With urbanization and expansion of trade, new classes of merchants and bankers sought **higher social status appropriate to their economic status.** Their **discontent over discrimination** meted out to them by Hindu religion made them to join new religion. For instance, **a large number of Vaishyas joined Jainism.**
Statement 2 is correct: The Kshatriyas resisted the dominance of Brahmanas and they didn't like the discriminatory treatment meted out to them by Brahmanas**.** The Kshatriyas were **denied a staged life of ashramas**, a privilege permitted **only to Brahmins** in the Vedic texts. Thus, many kings started thinking about converting their religion.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The **emergence of territorial identities** accelerated the process of socio-political and economic changes. The **elite class** protesting the varna system began to move towards **Magadha** where the heterodox religions such as **Buddhism and Jainism were blossoming.**
Statement 4 is incorrect: It is Vedic religion that advocated ritual extremity. **Upanishads** were born in **response against such rituals**. It preferred **meditation and introspection** to the extravagant sacrifices of Vedic scriptures. However, its ideas were even **more abstract** than the rituals themselves and hence, **people who needed a new, unambiguous, simple thought or belief systems started adopting heterodox religion such as Buddhism and Jainism** which preached largely in simple terms and common language.
Source: 11th TN SCERT - Chapter-Rise of Territorial Kingdoms and New Religious Sects
http://www.unishivaji.ac.in/uploads/distedu/SIM2013/M.%20A.%20I%20History%20HS%20101%20Society,%20Religion%20and%20Culture%20in%20Early%20India%20English%20Version/M.%20A.%20Part-I%20History%20HS%20101%20English%20Version%20Unit-4.pdf (pg. no 108)

Q.20) With reference to the recently adopted 'Singapore Declaration', consider the following statements:
1. It was adopted and enacted by the World Economic Forum.
2. It aims to address challenges associated with labour markets.
3. It asked countries to promote equal pay for equal work for male and female.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

www.forumias.org

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

International Labour Organization (ILO) is the **only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919**. It brings together **governments, employers and workers** of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Singapore declaration was adopted at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organisation (APRM of ILO). The Meeting set **ten-point priorities of national action** called **Singapore declaration** for the member countries to deal with the issue of dwindling wages of **workers, inflation and unemployment.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Singapore Declaration was aimed at addressing the labour market changes in a country. It said that **social dialogue** is essential to address labour market challenges and finding solutions in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and economic uncertainty.

Statement 3 is correct: Singapore declaration called for closing gender gaps in the world of work through measures tha**t increase women's labour force participation, promote equal pay for work of equal value**, balance work and responsibilities, and promote **women's leadership**.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/promote-freedom-of-association-do-not-curb-workers-rights-ilo-declaration/article66243782.ece

Q.21) With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held the view that, constituents of phenomena existed forever in a latent form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the early **sects of Buddhism**. The Sautrāntikas held the Buddhist sutras are central to their views, over and above the ideas presented in the Abhidharma literature. Sammitiya is an ancient Buddhist School that believed that though an individual does not exist independently from the five skandhas, or components, he is at the same time something greater than the mere sum of his parts.

Statement 2 is correct. The Sarvāstivādin was one of the early Buddhist schools established around the reign of Asoka. It was particularly known as an Abhidharma tradition, with a unique set of seven Abhidharma works. Sarvastivadin **held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.** It believes that all things exist, and exist continuously, in the past and the future as well as in the present.

Source) UPSC 2017

Q.22) With reference to 'Tribal Polity during Rigvedic period', consider the following pairs:

Functionaries	**Functions**
1. Purohita	Advising the Ruler
2. Spasa	Driver of the King's Chariot

3.	Vrajapati	In charge of pasture land
4.	Gramini	Collection of Tax

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) Only three pairs
d) All four pairs

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The administrative machinery of the Aryans in the Rig Vedic period functioned with the tribal chief, for his successful leadership in war, at the Centre. He was called Rajan. It seems that in the Rig Vedic period, the king's post had become hereditary. However, the Rajan was a kind of chief and did not exercise unlimited power, having to reckon with the tribal organizations.
Pair 1 is correctly matched: In the day-to-day administration, the king was assisted by a few functionaries. The most important of these seems to have been the Purohita. The **Purohita assisted and advised the chief on various matters**. The two priests who played a major role in Rig Vedic times were Vasishtha and Vishvamitra.
Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: The Rajan held the **Spies called Spasa** to keep an eye on the conduct of the people. The Rig Veda, the most influential 'document' in the Vedic cannon, contains references to spies, or 'spasa', being used by the god Varuna, even enunciating on their features such as wisdom and courage.
Pair 3 is correctly matched: In a Vedic grama, the **duty to manage pastoral land was of a Vrajapati**, who also led the battles. Both Gramini and Vrajapati were either same person or equivalent grama level heads.
Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: During Rig-Vedic era, the basic unit of power lied within a patriarchal family (Kula). The head of the family was a Kulapa. A group of such families called grama, which was **controlled by a village headman Gramini**. The groups of the villages belonged to a clan (Vis) and many clans made a community called Jana.
There is **no official mention of Gramini being a collector of taxes**. The people offered to the chief what is called bali. It was just a voluntary contribution made by the ordinary tribesmen on special occasions.
Source:
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson4.pdf
https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/the-indic-roots-of-espionage-lessons-for-international-security/
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20138/1/Unit-12.pdf

Q.23) With reference to 'Economy during Early Vedic period', consider the following statements:
1. There was no concept of private property based on land-ownership.
2. The coinage system was extensively developed with the circulation of silver made punch-marked coins.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The early Vedic Aryans were mainly pastoralists. Cattle rearing was their main occupation.

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Statement 1 is correct: In Early Vedic society, people were pastorals and cattle were the main index of wealth. Land ownership was not prevalent at that time. There was **no concept of private property based on land-ownership**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Even though Early Vedic society was based on pastoralism, **p**eople in Early Vedic society were engaged in many economic activities like hunting, carpentry, tanning, weaving, chariot-making, metal smeltery. **The products of these activities were exchanged through barter due to underdevelopment of coinage or currency system**. Cows were the most favored medium of exchange.

Source:

https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson4.pdf

https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20138/1/Unit-12.pdf

Q.24) With reference to 'Harappan Sculpture', consider the following statements:

1. The Bearded Priest statue found in Mohenjo-Daro was made of bronze metal.
2. The Dancing Girl sculpture represents a 'tribhanga' posture.
3. The Terracotta figurine of mother goddess have been found in Harappan sites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sculptures such as Dancing girl, bearded man, human torso, musical instruments, elephants, Shiva and Nandi are the notable sculptures of the Harappan civilization.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Bearded Priest is found in **Mohenjo-Daro and made of Steatite (not bronze)**. It is the figure of a bearded man, draped in a shawl with trefoil patterns. The eyes are elongated, and half closed as in meditation.

Bearded Priest

Statement 2 is correct: The Dancing Girl is the world's oldest bronze sculpture. Found in Mohenjo-Daro, this four-inch figure depicts a naked girl wearing only ornaments, which include bangles in the left arm, and amulet and bracelet on the right arm. She stands in a '**tribhanga' dancing posture with the right hand on her hip.**

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Dancing Girl

Statement 3 is correct: The Mother Goddess figures is made up of **terracotta (fire baked clay)** have been found in many Indus sites, which highlights its importance. It is a crude figure of a standing female adorned with necklaces hanging over prominent breasts. She wears a loincloth and a girdle. She also wears a fan-shaped headgear. The facial features are also shown very crudely and lacks finesse.

Mother Goddess figures

Source: Nitin Singhania (3 rd Edition PDF) chapter 1 INDIAN ARCHITECTURE, SCULPTURE AND POTTERY- pg no 50, 51, 53

Q.25) With reference to the global economy, consider the following pairs:

Terms	Meaning/Related to
1. Petrodollar	US Dollars used to pay for the purchasing of crude oil.
2. Price Cap Coalition	Coalition led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to regulate the prices of COVID-19 Vaccines.

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3. Petromoneda	a Crypto currency launched by the government of Venezuela.

How many pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) only one pair
b) only two pairs
c) All three pairs
d) None of the pairs

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Pair 1 is correct: Petrodollars are **oil export revenues denominated in U.S. dollars.** Petrodollars are not a distinct currency; they are simply **U.S. dollars accepted as payment by an oil exporter**. Oil exporters **prefer the U.S. dollar** because it is the **pre-eminent global currency for global investments** because of the high rate of return of US Dollars.
Pair 2 is incorrect: The "Price Cap Coalition" comprises the EU, G7 and Australia has recently introduced legislation and guidance intended to maintain the **supply of Russian oil** to world markets whilst at the same tim**e reducing Russia's earnings from its oil exports.** It came up with the Price **Cap Scheme** to fix the maximum price ceiling limit on **Russian oil** to reduce Russia's earning from oil exports.
Pair 3 is correct: Petro or Petromoneda is a cryptocurrency launched by the government of Venezuela to circumvent international sanctions against it and revive the country's flailing economy. It is supposedly backed by a portion of Venezuela's massive oil reserves. While it was launched with great publicity, the Petro has not lived up to its hype, and critics and observers have questioned its validity.
Source:
https://www.google.com/search?q=petrodollar+system&oq=petrodollar+system&aqs=chrome..69i57j35i39j0i512l5j0i22i30l3.1766j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Petrodollars%20are%20U.S.%20dollars%20paid%20to%20an%20oil%2Dexporting%20country
https://indianexpress.com/article/business/world-market/one-of-the-worlds-richest-petrostates-is-running-out-of-cash-6580063/
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-economics/g7-russia-oil-price-cap-explained-8308305/
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/maduro-unveils-reforms-to-revive-crisis-hit-economy/article24726839.ece

Q.26) How did the Vedic Civilization differ from the Harappan Civilization?
1. The Harappa Civilization was an urban culture, while the Vedic Civilization was the rural based culture.
2. Unlike Harappan civilization, the people of the Vedic civilization were completely ignorant of the use of the iron.
3. In the Indus civilization, trade as well as industries were the main sources of economy, whereas Vedic Economy was mainly based on agriculture.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Harappa culture is the earliest known culture of the Indian subcontinent of the kind now called "urban" (or centred on large municipalities), and the largest of the four ancient civilizations, which also included Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. A few centuries after the decline of the Harappan civilization, a new culture flourished in the same region and gradually spread across the Ganga-Yamuna plains. This culture came to be known as the Vedic culture. There were significant differences between this culture and the culture that preceded it.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Harappa Civilization culture was the town/urban culture** with trade as the main occupation, while the **Aryan culture was the rural culture with agriculture** as the main occupation. The significant difference between the material life of the people of the Arya and Harappan cultures lies not in the use of metal, but in the almost complete absence of towns in the Rig Veda era.

Statement 2 is incorrect: According to the information based on available sources, the people of the **Indus Valley civilization were completely ignorant of the use of the iron**. The people of the Vedic age knew the use of various metals. They used gold and copper in the beginning but later on also used silver, iron and bronze. The **Harappa Civilization was the main bronze culture** in the use of various metals. They also used copper.

Statement 3 is correct: In the Indus civilization **trade, internal and external, crafts as well as industries were the main sources of economy**, Vedic Economy was based upon **agriculture.** In the field of social level, the social life of the Harappa culture people was happy and prosperous and they lived a life of luxury and opulence, while the social life of the people of Vedic culture was simple and their life was based on holiness. The main food of the people of Harappa Civilization was wheat and fish, while the main food of the people of Vedic culture was barley and rice.

Source: https://www.iite.ac.in/download/notice/61b334c0ab6cc.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20133/1/Unit-8.pdf

Q.27) In the context of Vedic age, the term 'Pani' refers to-

a) Agricultural herdsmen
b) Class of merchants
c) Head of the Village Unit
d) Tax Collector Agent

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pani is basically a **community of tradesmen or class of merchants** often travelling to distant lands for international trade referred to in Vedic literature. Merchants in the Vedic period prayed and offered oblations to seek divine grace for success in trade.

These commercial people believed in a materialistic philosophy of life. The Panis, who were the enemies of the Vedic people, are stated in the Rigveda to have hidden their wealth, mostly cows, in the mountains and forests. The term Pani came to be associated with merchants and wealth in the subsequent ages.

Mostly these traders and merchants were the Asuras or Dasyus and for trade moved in all directions including foreign countries. The international trade was confined to a certain section of Dasyu society called the Panis.

Source: BHIC-101E.xps (egyankosh.ac.in)

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Q.28) Consider the following description of an Indus Valley Civilization site:
"It is situated on the now dried-up Ghaggar bank. It shows evidences of both the Early Harappan and Mature Harappan cultures. Copper axes, terracotta bangles and carnelian have been found. Existence of Kot Dijian pottery is also reported from this site. Evidences about the use of plough for agricultural purposes are also found."
Which one of the following Indus Valley sites is depicted in the above paragraph?
a) Kalibangan
b) Dholavira
c) Lothal
d) Banawali

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Situated in north Rajasthan on the now dried-up Ghaggar bank, Kalibangan shows evidences of both the Early Harappan and mature Harappan cultures. During its Early Harappan period, people lived in houses made of mud bricks of standard sizes. The township was Fortified with a 3 - 4 metre-thick wall. Copper axes, terracotta bangles shell, carnelian etc. have been found. Existence of Kot Dijian pottery is also reported. Evidences about the use of plough for agricultural purposes are found.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/16901/1/Unit-18.pdf
Old NCERT History Class 11th- RS Sharma- Chapter-6

Q.29) With reference to 'Rig Vedic Society', consider the following statements:
1. In Rig Vedic society, oral instruction was one of the methods of teaching.
2. There are no references to beggars and wage-earners in the Rigveda.
3. There are evidences of widow remarriage in the Rig-Veda.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Vedic society was a tribal society, in which social relations based on kingship ties were predominant. In the society, even the rajas (kings), the Purohit (priests), the artisans etc. were parts of the clan networks.
Statement 1 is correct: The methods of teaching generally practiced during Rig Vedic period were mainly Maukhik (oral) and other method was based on Chintan (thinking and reflection). In the oral method the students were to memorize the mantras (Vedic Hymns) and Richayas (Versus of Rigveda) in order that there might not be changed wrongly and they might remain preserved in their original forms. Under the oral methods these prosodic were thoroughly taught on which Vedic Richayas happened to be based.
Statement 2 is correct: Various occupational groups such as those of weavers, smiths, carpenters, leather workers, chariot-makers, priests etc. are mentioned in Rig Veda. The chariot-makers occupied special social status. There are **no references to beggars, wage-earners or wages in the Rigveda.** However, society was economically stratified, and we do find references to rich people possessing chariots, cattle, etc. and making generous gifts of them.
Statement 3 is correct: Despite of the patriarchal character of the family, the position of women was much better in the Rig Vedic period than in later times. There are also **evidences of widow remarriage in the Rig-Veda**. Girls were normally married off after puberty (between the age of 16 and 17). Unmarried girls

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grew up in the home of their parents. Some unmarried woman like Visvavara and Apala offered sacrifices on their own.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64790/1/BLOCK%203.pdf
https://archive.mu.ac.in/myweb_test/ma%20edu/History%20of%20Edu..pdf
https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1709090.pdf

Q.30) With reference to the "India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide", consider the following statements:
1. It has been prepared and released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. More than two-third of the population in both rural as well as urban areas uses internet.
3. Among Indian states, Maharashtra has the highest internet penetration and Bihar has the lowest internet penetration.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Oxfam has released a report titled 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide'. The report highlights the extent of the digital divide in India and its impact on essential services such as e**ducation, health and financial inclusion.**
Statement 1 is incorrect: The report titled 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' has been released **by the Oxfam India.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: According to **India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide** released by Oxfam, only **31% of the rural population uses the Internet compared to 67% of their urban counterparts.** Also, the report highlights that **61% of men-owned mobile phones in 2021 compared to just 31% of women.**
Statement 3 is correct: Among states, **Maharashtra has the highest internet penetration,** followed by Goa and Kerala, while **Bihar has the lowest**, followed by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
Source: https://blog.forumias.com/only-31-women-own-mobile-phones-says-oxfam-report-on-india-digital-divide/
https://pmevidya.education.gov.in/
https://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/bharat-net

Q.31) Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?
a) Dholavira
b) Kalibangan
c) Rakhigarhi
d) Ropar

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era). Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its **water management system**, multi-layered defensive

mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures. It has a complex system for **collecting and storing rain water within several reservoirs**. Planners in the ancient city of Dholavira had conceptualised an amazing system of **drains, dams and tanks** to manage water.
Source) https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/harappan-era-city-dholavira-inscribed-on-unesco-world-heritage-list/articleshow/84789197.cms
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/indepth/secrets-of-the-water-fort-31932
https://portfolio.cept.ac.in/archive/dholavira-decoding-its-water-heritage/
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Q.32) The great events of the life of the Buddha were represented by different symbols. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Events of Buddha's life	**Symbols**
1. Death of Buddha	Stupa
2.Great Renunciation	Bull
3. Birth of Buddha	Throne
4. First sermon	Wheel
5. Enlightenment	Bodhi tree

How many pairs are correctly matched?
a) Only two pairs
b) Only three pairs
c) Only four pairs
d) Only five pairs

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Symbols of 5 great events of Buddha's Life:
1. Buddha's Birth: Lotus & Bull.
2. The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana): Horse.
3. Enlightment (Nirvana): Bodhi Tree.
4. First Sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan): Wheel.
5. Death (Parinirvana): Stupa.

Option 1 is correct: Mahaparinirvana i.e the death of Buddha is represented by the symbol **Stupa**. Stupa is a Buddhist commemorative monument that usually contains **sacred relics associated with the Buddha or other saintly persons.**
Option 2 is incorrect: Mahabhinishkramana i.e the **Great Renunciation is represented by the symbol Horse (not Bull)**. It is also called as Great Departure that marks the departure of Gautama Buddha from his palace at Kapilavastu to live a life as an ascetic
Option 3 is incorrect: The **birth** of Buddha is marked by a symbol of **Lotus and bull.** The lotus is said to have bloomed at the exact moment of the Buddha's birth, and is a reminder of the potential for enlightenment that exists within all beings

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Option 4 is correct: Dhammachakra Pravartan i.e, Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath in Benaras (present day Varanasi in U.P) is represented by the symbol of the **wheel**.
Option 5 is correct: The **symbol of the enlightenment of the Buddha (Nirvana) is the bodhi tree,** under which the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment.
Source: Nitin Singhania: Religions in India - Basics about Buddhism

Q.33) With reference to 'Slaves in Rig Vedic period', consider the following statements:
1. Both men and women captured in war were treated as slaves.
2. Most of the slaves were engaged in agricultural production activities.
3. Women slaves were given as gifts to priests for domestic purposes.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Slavery was a common occurrence during the Vedic age and slaves were treated as property, where they did not possess rights, power, autonomy or honour and were relegated to a very demeaning level.
Statement 1 is correct: The term Dasa came to mean as slave. Slaves were **women and men who were often captured in war.** They were treated as the property of their owners, who could make them do whatever work they wanted.
Statement 2 is incorrect: In Vedic period, Dasa and Dasis were used to address slaves, but it has been made clear that they **didn't engage in agricultural production-related activities** and were solely occupied with working in the household. Female slaves were often used for sexual purposes as well, while they were given as gifts.
Statement 3 is correct: The dasas and the dasyus conquered by the Aryans, were treated as slaves. Slaves and mainly women slaves **meant for domestic purposes**, were given as gifts to priests and Rajans.
Source:
https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp_content/S000829IC/P001497/M015108/ET/14600121395ET.pdf

Q.34) Which of the following statements correctly portrays the characteristic features of Early Vedic Period?
1. Temples were used for religious worship.
2. Matriarchal nature of social setup was prevalent
3. The norm of Monogamy was generally practiced.
4. Society was economically stratified.
5. Women had a right to choose their partners.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 3, 4 and 5 only
d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

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The Early Vedic period is said to have begun around the second millennium BCE. Following the fall of the Indus Valley Civilization about 1900 BCE, tribes of Indo-Aryan peoples moved into north-western India and began to settle in the northern Indus Valley.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the Early Vedic period, **there was no temple**. There were no any evidences of the presence of temples in the Vedic period. Only they practiced primitive animism, form of practicing worship of nature. The temple was not a Vedic institution. Its origin was intertwined with the evolution of pooja, a form of idol worship.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Rig Vedic Society was **patriarchal.** The birth of a son was the common desire of the people. The importance given to the male members is reflected in the hymns, where the desire for a son is a constant prayer. Even though society was patriarchal, women had also important position in it.

Statement 3 is correct: In Early Vedic period, women relished a reputable position, as they were allowed to attend Samitis and Sabhas. Many of the women present there were poets (Lopamudra, Ghosa, Apala, and Viswavara). There was no practice of child marriage. **Monogamy was a norm, but polygamy was found** among noble families and royalty.

Statement 4 is correct: Various occupational groups such as those of weavers, smith, carpenters, leather workers, chariot makers, priests etc. were present in Early Rig Vedic period mentioned. The chariot makers occupied a special social status. There are no references to beggars, wage-earners or wages in the Rigveda. However, **society was economically stratified**, and we do find references to rich people possessing chariots, cattle, etc. and making generous gifts of them.

Statement 5 is correct: Even though society was patriarchal, **women had also important position in it.** They were educated and they had access to the assemblies. There' are also instances of women who composed hymns. **They had a right to choose their partners**, and could marry late. However, women were always thought to be dependent on their fathers, brothers or husbands. Education was imparted orally, but the tradition of education was not very well developed in this period.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20138/1/Unit-12.pdf

Q.35) In the context of India, consider the following statements with respect to Exit Polls:

1. It is usually conducted before the beginning of voting in a constituency.
2. The Representation of the People's Act, 1951 imposes certain restrictions on exit polls.
3. It can be conducted only by designated public authorities.
4. It was conducted for the first time in India during the first Lok Sabha elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Exit-poll means an opinion survey inspecting how electors have voted at an election. It generally involves **asking citizens about their voting preferences on Election Day itself.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The exit polls are **conducted after the election voting**. It refers to survey done on people who have **just exited voting booths** and it **inspects how electors have voted at an election.** They are different from **opinion polls or pre-poll surveys which are conducted before the elections.** Pre-poll surveys reflect public preference before an election.

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Statement 2 is correct: Section 126(A) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, states that no person shall **conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise its results** through the print or electronic media, during such period as the **Election Commission of India (ECI) may notify in this regard**.
Statement 3 is incorrect: It can be conducted by private organisations too. A number of organisations, often in tie-ups with media organisations conduct the exit polls in India.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The first exit polls in India were conducted during the second Loksabha election. In 1957, during the 2nd Lok Sabha elections, the Indian Institute of Public Opinion conducted an exit poll.
Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/what-are-exit-polls-what-rules-govern-them-in-india-8306979/
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-to-conduct-read-exit-polls-predictions-lok-sabha-elections-2019-5736407/#:~:text=1957%20during%20the%20second%20Lok%20Sabha%20elections%20when%20the%20Indian%20Institute%20of%20Public%20Opinion%20conducted%20a%20poll.

Q.36) With reference to the comparison between the Early Vedic Period and the Later Vedic Period, consider the following statements:
1. In the Early Vedic period, cattle rearing was the main occupation, whereas agriculture became the main occupation in Later Vedic period.
2. Unlike Early Vedic Period, the voluntary tribute was the only source of income for the King in Later Vedic period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The Vedic Age was between 1500 BC and 600 BC. This is the next major civilization that occurred in ancient India after the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization by 1400 BC. The Vedic age itself is divided into the Early Vedic Period (1500 – 1000 BCE) and Later Vedic Period (1000 – 600 BCE).
Statement 1 is correct: In the early Vedic period, **Pastoral economy i.e., cattle rearing was the main occupation.** Shifting type of agriculture was prevalent. The measure of wealth was cattle and wealthy man was called Gomat. Whereas, in the **Later Vedic age, Agriculture had become the main occupation for the livelihood.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: In the early Vedic age, there was **no any regular revenue system**. Only **voluntary tribute** was the single source of income for the head of community i.e., King. Gift exchanged on group gathering was also important source for the economy. Whereas, in the Later Vedic age, **collection of taxes and tribute was made mandatory as the source of i**ncome for the head of community and were done by Sangrihitri. Vaishyas were the tribute paying community in later Vedic times**.**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64790/1/BLOCK%203.pdf

Q.37) With reference to the Vedic Age in general, the term 'Yava', 'Godhuma' and 'Vrihi' refers to-
a) Tribal leaders of villages of Early Vedic age
b) Different types of religious customs
c) Various cereals mentioned in Vedic text.

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d) Natural gods worshipped in Vedic age

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Vedic Age was between 1500 BC and 600 BC. It occurred after the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization by 1400 BC. The Vedas were composed in this period and this gives this age the name. The Vedas are also the chief source of information about this era.

Option c is correct: Yava (Barley), godhuma (wheat), Ikshu (sugarcane) and vrihi (rice) are the terms used for different cereals in the Vedic texts. There are also several references to agricultural operations such as sowing, ploughing, reaping, and threshing in different Vedic texts.

Source: NCERT - old and new and TN SCERT

Q.38) With reference to the Magadh Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The capital of Magadh Empire was Rajgir during the reign of Bimbisara.
2. Ajatasatru established matrimonial alliance with Vaishali for the safety of Northern frontier of Magadha empire.
3. The first standing army of India was created in Magadha empire by Ajatasatru.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Magadha Empire encompasses the rule of three dynasties over time – Haryanka Dynasty, Shishunaga Dynasty, and Nanda Dynasty. The timeline of the Magadha Empire is estimated to be from **684 BCE to 320 BCE**.

Statement 1 is correct: Bimbisara established the first capital of Magadha at **Rajagriha or Rajgir**. He ran a well administered kingdom, and Magadha prospered under him. Rajagriha was **surrounded by five hills and proved to be impenetrable**. It not only enjoyed a strategic location, but also lay in the vicinity of iron-encrusted outcrops. The capital of Magadh Empire shifted to Pataliputra during the reign of Ajatashatru.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Bimbisara married Chellana, a princess of the Licchavi family of Vaisali. This matrimonial alliance secured for him the safety of the northern frontier. With political foresight he realised the importance of establishing dynastic relations through marriage with the royal house of Kosala. Whereas, **Ajatshatru didn't established alliance but fought against Kosala and Vaisali**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **first standing army of India was created in Maghada by the ruler Bimbisara (Not Ajatshatru)**. The reign of Ajatasatru was remarkable for his military conquests. He fought against Kosala and Vaisali. He won a great success against a formidable confederacy led by the Lichchavis of Vaisali. This had increased his power and prestige.

Source: NCERT - old and new and TN SCERT

Q.39) With reference to Ancient Indian history, consider the following pairs:

Mahajanapadas	**Cities Included**
1. Anga	Ayodhya
2. Kosala	Champa

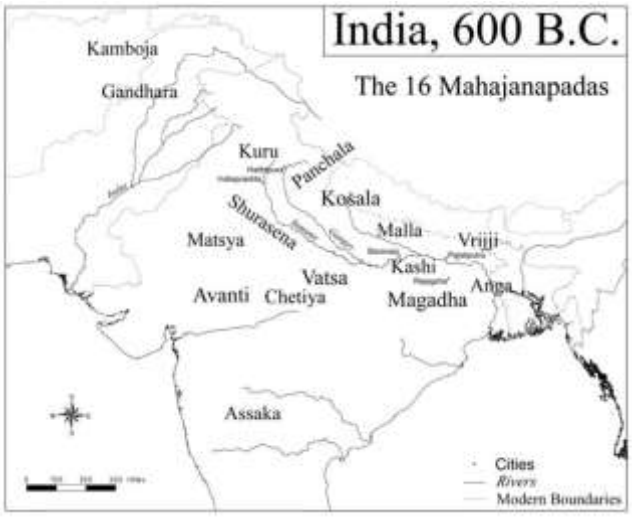
3.	Vatsa	Kausambi
4.	Matsya	Viratnagara

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In the beginning of the **6th century B.C**., the northern India consisted of a large number of independent kingdoms. The **Buddhist literature Anguttara Nikaya** gives a list of sixteen great kingdoms called '**Sixteen Mahajanapadas'**. They were Anga, Magadha, Kasi, Kosala, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Asmaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kambhoja.



Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Anga comprised the districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr in Bihar. It may have extended northwards to the river Kosi and included some parts of the district of Purnea. It was located to the east of Magadha and west of the Rajamahal hills**. Champa was the capital of Anga**. It was located on the confluence of the rivers Champa and the Ganga**. Whereas, Ayodhya** was ruled under the **Janpadas of Kosala.**

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: The Mahajanapada of **Kosala** was bounded on the west by the river Gomati. Kosala became a prosperous Kingdom having three big cities under its control i.e., **Ayodhya, Saketa and Sravasti**. Kosala also annexed the Kingdom of Kashi in its territory. The Kings of Kosala favoured both Brahmanism and Buddhism. In the succeeding phases Kosala proved to be one of the most formidable adversaries of the emergent Magadhan empire.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Vatsa with its capital at Kausambi was one of the most powerful principalities of the sixth century B.C. Kausambi has been identified with modem Kosam or the river Yamuna near Allahabad. This means that the Vatsas were settled around **modern Allahabad**. The puranas say that the descendant of the Pandavas, Nichaksu shifted his capital to Kausambi after Hastinapur had been washed away by floods.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: The Matsyas were located in the **Jaipur-Bharatpur-Alwar region of Rajasthan.** Their capital was at Viratnagara famed as the hiding place of the Pandavas. This region was more suitable for cattle rearing. Some of the most famous edicts of the King Ashoka have been found in Bairat (Jaipur district), the ancient Virat.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20144/1/Unit-14.pdf

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Q.40) In the context of India, which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Heat Waves?
1. As per the Indian Meteorological Department, a Heat wave can be declared in a hilly region only if the maximum temperature is above 40 Degree Celsius.
2. Urbanisation is one of the causes of heat waves in India.
3. Absence of moisture in the upper atmosphere is one of the favourable conditions for occurrence of heat waves.
4. Heat dome is one of the climate engineering solutions to mitigate the effects of heat waves.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

A heat wave is a period of **abnormally hot weather** and can occur with or without high humidity. They have potential to cover a large area, exposing a high number of people to **hazardous heat.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: According to IMD, Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius or more for Plains and **at least 30 degrees Celsius or more for Hilly regions**. There are also other criteria:

A) Based on **Departure from Normal** - Heat Wave exists if the departure from normal is **4.5 degree C to 6.4 degree Celsius.**

B) Based on **Actual Maximum Temperature**- Heat Wave exists if the actual maximum temperature exceeds or equals **45 degrees Celsius.**

Statement 2 is correct: The urban centres are full of **concrete structures** that **enhance the occurrence** of heat waves. The materials used to build cities like asphalt, concrete, bricks and other supplies and the darker colours used to paint the buildings **absorb and retain short-wave radiation from the sun.**

Statement 3 is correct: Absence of moisture in the upper atmosphere is one of the favourable conditions for heat waves as the presence of moisture restricts the temperature rise**.** Other favourable conditions are absence of clouds in the sky, Prevalence of hot dry air over a region and large amplitude anti-cyclonic flow over the region.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Heat dome is one of the effects of heat waves. A Heat Dome is created when an area of high pressure stays over the same area for days or even weeks, **trapping very warm air underneath**, like a lid on a pot.

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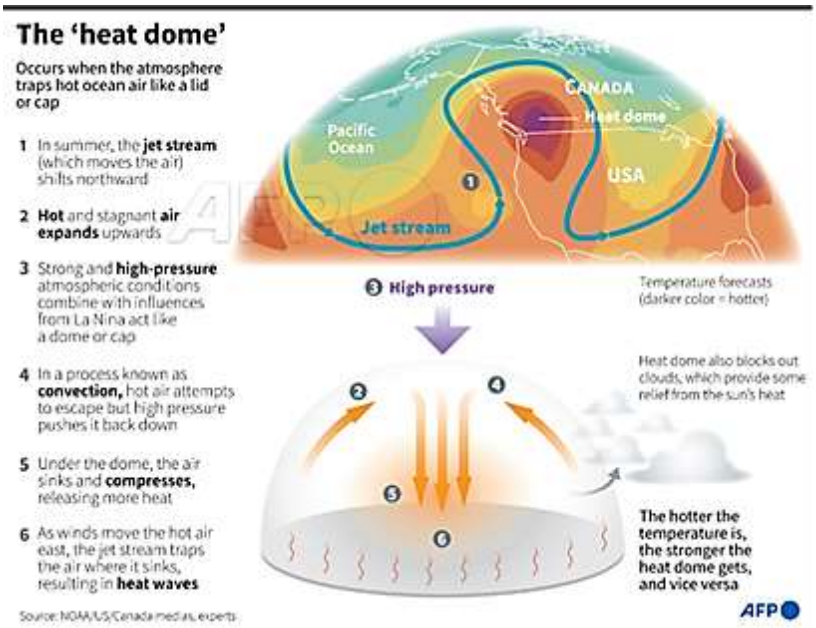
The 'heat dome'
Occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap
1 In summer, the jet stream (which moves the air) shifts northward
2 Hot and stagnant air expands upwards
3 Strong and high-pressure atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Nina act like a dome or cap
4 In a process known as convection, hot air attempts to escape but high pressure pushes it back down
5 Under the dome, the air sinks and compresses, releasing more heat
6 As winds move the hot air east, the jet stream traps the air where it sinks, resulting in heat waves
Source: NOAA/US/Canada media, experts
CANADA
Heat dome
Pacific Ocean
USA
Jet stream
3 High pressure
Temperature forecasts (darker color = hotter)
Heat dome also blocks out clouds, which provide some relief from the sun's heat
The hotter the temperature is, the stronger the heat dome gets, and vice versa
AFP

Source: https://internal.imd.gov.in/section/nhac/dynamic/FAQ_heat_wave.pdf
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-heatwaves-and-the-role-humidity-plays-in-making-them-deadly-7907102/
https://blog.forumias.com/heat-waves-rising-frequency-and-intensity/

Q.41) Consider the following pairs:

Historical Place	**Well Known for**
1. Burzahom	Rock cut shrines
2. Chandra-Ketugarh	Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar	Copper artefacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 3 only
d) 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Pair 1 is incorrectly matched. It can be eliminated as Burzahom site (Jammu and Kashmir) is a Neolithic site. Rock cut shrines were not found in Neolithic period.
Pair 2 is correctly matched Chandraketugah is a site in West Bengal near Kolkata. According to historians, the place dates back to before or around 3rd century BC. The place has always generated curiosity among the archaeologists and various excavations have taken place here and a number of **terracotta artworks** has been unearthed.
Pair 3 is correctly matched. Ganeshwar is a famous site in Khetri belt in Rajasthan. Ganeshwar complex sites have yielded more than 5000 **copper objects**, with some typical Harappan types like thin blades, arrow-heads etc.
Source) UPSC2021
http://kashmirnetwork.com/today/burzahom.html#:~:text=Burzahom%20Burzahom%20was%20the%2

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0first%20Neolithic%20site%20to,km%20from%20the%20famous%20Mughal%20garden%20of%20Shalimar.
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/41368/1/MAN-002B8E.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64778/1/Unit4.pdf
https://www.livehistoryindia.com/story/amazing-india/chandraketugarh-an-enigma-in-bengal/

Q.42) Which of the following were the reasons behind the success of Magadh Kingdom during the Mahajanapadas period?
1. Magadh used elephants on a large scale in the wars to get an edge over other kingdoms.
2. The capital of Magadh was surrounded by hills that made their fortress difficult to penetrate.
3. Accessibility to the iron mining areas ensured better weapons in warfare for the Magadh Kingdom.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Magadha empire was most powerful among of all the sixteen kingdoms of North India during the Mahajanapadas period. It can be identified with the modern districts of Patna, Gaya, Nalanda and parts of Shahabad in the present-day state of Bihar.
Statement 1 is correct: Magadha was one of the few which used **elephants on a large scale in the wars and thus had an edge over others**. Elephants had an advantage over horses and chariots, because they could be used to march across marshy lands and areas which had no roads or other means of transport. Magadh had an easy access to supply of the elephants.
Statement 2 is correct: The capital of Magadha, Rajagriha (Girivraja) was **surrounded by five hills which proved it difficult to be penetrate**.
Statement 3 is correct: One of the factors that contributed to the rise of Magadha empire was the availability of minerals, which resulted in the introduction of iron tools especially for warfare
The **iron ores in the hills near Rajgir and copper and iron deposits** near Gaya **added to its natural assets.** The ready availability of the rich iron ores in the neighborhood of the capital enabled the Magadha kings to make themselves equipped with effective weapons. On the other, the effective iron weapons were not easily available to their rivals.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64793/1/Unit15.pdf
Tamil Nadu NCERT – Chap 5 (The rise of MAGADHA AND ALEXANDER'S INVASION)

Q.43) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the impact of Iranian invasion of India during 6th century B.C.?
1. It led to the introduction of Satrap system of administration in North-western India.
2. It led to the introduction of Kharosthi script in North-western India.
3. Mauryan architecture was influenced by the Iranian architecture.
4. The void left due to retreat of Iranian invaders from North-western India were filled immediately by Chandragupta Maurya.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only

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d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: A satrap was a governor of the provinces of the Achaemenid Empires and it was **introduced by Iranians in Indian provinces**. Later it was developed by the Sakas ruling in North western and western parts of India. **Satraps collected taxes** and was the supreme **judicial authority** and he was also responsible for **internal security and raised and maintained an army.**

Option 2 is correct: Iranian scribes brought into India the new form of writing known as **Kharosthi script**. It was written from **right to left** like the Arabic. Some Ashokan Inscriptions in North-western India were written in this script.

Option 3 is correct: The monument of the Ashokan pillar, especially the **bell-shaped capital, is inspired from the Iranian architecture**. Iranian influence can also be traced in the **preamble of Ashokan edicts** and in the **words** used by it. For instance, the **Ashokan scribe used the word lipi for the Iranian word dipi.**

Option 4 is incorrect: Alexander defeated the Persian King Darius III in the Battle of Arbela (330 BC) and he filled the void left by the Iranians in North-western India. The Macedonian invasion (Alexander invasion) took place between **326-325 BCE during Nanda's reign** and his **retreat from North-western Indi**a was filled by Chandragupta **Maurya's**. Chandragupta Maurya acquired North-western India in **301 BCE** by defeating **Seleucus** who was one of Alexander's generals**. Retreat of Iranians** from North-western India was filled by **Alexander.**

Source: Ancient India by R.S. Sharma: Chapter - Iraninan and Macedonian invasion of India

Q.44) With reference to the society in the Age of Buddha, consider the following statements:

1. Buddha's action of frequently visiting the assembly of Shudras played a major role in improving the social conditions of Shudras.
2. The Dharmasutras enacted during Buddha's age were silent about the practice of interest-bearing lending.
3. Women belonging to the Brahmana and Kshatriya Varnas were allowed to receive Upanayana.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) None of the above

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: There is no evidence that suggests that Buddha visited the assembly of Shudras. Although they were **admitted to the new religious order** such as Buddhism and Jainism, **their general position remained low**. The Varna system placed shudras in the lower rank. All kinds of disabilities were imposed on the shudras.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Dharmasutras, the Brahmanical law scriptures, **condemned interest-bearing lending**. They **criticized the Vaishyas** who lent money to expand trade and commerce.

Statement 3 is incorrect: No women irrespective of their varnas could be invested with Upanayana. Upanayana usually marks a **boy's acceptance into the life of a spiritual student (brahmacharya) and as a member of the religious community**. During this ceremony, the young receive the sacred thread which he wears across his chest from the left shoulder to the waist.

Source: Ancient India by R.S. Sharma: Chapter - State and Varna society in the Age of Buddha

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Q.45) With reference to Asiatic Lions, consider the following statements:
1. Asiatic Lion has a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly, which is usually absent in African Lions.
2. They are listed in the Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
3. The habitat of Asiatic lion is presently restricted to India.
4. Software SIMBA has been developed for the identification of Asiatic Lion.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1 and 4 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Asiatic lions are **slightly smaller than African lions**. In contrast to African lion, the most striking morphological character, which is always seen in Asiatic lions is a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The Asiatic Lions listed in **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of CITES and as Endangered on IUCN Red List.** The Schedule I covers endangered species. These species need rigorous protection and therefore, the harshest penalties for violation of the law are under this Schedule. Species under this Schedule are prohibited to be hunted throughout India, except under threat to human life.
Statement 3 is correct: The Asiatic Lion is a member of the Panthera Leo subspecies that is **restricted to India.** Its previous habitats consisted of West Asia and the Middle East before it became extinct in these regions. **In India,** Asiatic lions were once distributed to the state of West Bengal in east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in central India. At present **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.**
Statement 4 is correct: The forest department of Gujarat has developed new software named **SIMBA (Software with Intelligent Marking Based Identification) of Asiatic lions** is Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based software developed to identify Asiatic lions individually. The software has been developed by Hyderabad-based "Telio labs". SIMBA works with a deep machine learning technique to distinguish unique whisker marks to identify Asiatic lions individually.
Source: The Asiatic Lion -ForumIAS Blog
Eight Asiatic lions test positive for coronavirus in Hyderabad zoo - The Hindu

Q.46) With reference to the 'Harappan Script', consider the following statements:
1. The Harappan script was written mostly from right to left direction.
2. Most of the inscriptions of the Harappan script are extremely long and have used non-recurring symbols.
3. At present, there is no known bilingual inscription to help decipher the Harappan script.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Harappan Script is the writing system developed by the Indus Valley Civilization and it is the earliest form of writing known in the Indian subcontinent. Examples of Indus writing has been found on seals and

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seal impressions, pottery, bronze tools, stoneware bangles, bones, shells, ladles, ivory and on small tablets made of steatite, bronze and copper.

Statement 1 is correct: Indus script was generally written **from right to left**, however, some exceptions wherein the script is written left to right or in a boustrophedon mode are also known. Although the script is undeciphered, the **writing direction has been deduced from external evidence**, such as instances of the symbols being compressed on the left side as if the writer is running out of space at the end of the row. In the case of seals, which create a mirror image impression on the clay or ceramic on which the seal is affixed, the impression of the seal is read from right to left, as is this case with inscriptions in other cases

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Indus script, also known as the Harappan script, is a corpus of symbols produced by the Indus Valley civilization. **Most inscriptions** containing these symbols are **extremely short**, making it difficult to judge whether or not these symbols constituted a writing. system used to record as yet unidentified language(s) of the Indus Valley civilization.

Thousands of inscriptions are known from some 60 excavation sites of Harrapan period: **most of them are short**, the average length is five signs and none of them is longer than 26 signs. Also, the reoccurrence of symbols is generally absent. So, it has become extremely hard to decipher the Harappan language/script.

Statement 3 is correct: The seals used by the Harapan's carried some form of writing. This script is still a mystery to us because we cannot read it. So far, the other forgotten scripts like those of ancient Egypt could be read again because scholars found some inscriptions written in the forgotten script followed by some of its forms in a known script. **We have not discovered any bilingual inscription in Harappa so far.** Thus, we do not know what language the Harappan spoke and what they wrote. **No bilingual texts have been found** so far and its connection with Indian writing systems (e.g., Brahmi, Devanagari and Bengali script) is uncertain. This is the main reason why the Indus Valley Civilization is one of the least known of the important early civilizations of antiquity.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20135/1/Unit-6.pdf
https://www.worldhistory.org/Indus_Script/

Q.47) With reference to the various sects of ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. Unlike Jainism, Ajivika did not believe in the 'Doctrine of Determinism".
2. Unlike Buddhism, Jainism completely denied the existence of soul.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Ajivikas believed in the **doctrine of determinism. According to this doctrine,** affairs of the entire universe were predetermined including an individual's fate, to the last detail. The doctrine barred personal efforts to change or accelerate improvement toward one's spiritual destiny.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Jainism does believe in the soul. It believes that the soul exists forever, even after it has left the body. Each soul is always independent and the soul is responsible for what it does.
The soul experiences the consequences of its actions and the soul can become liberated from the cycle of birth and death.

Source: 11th TN SCERT - Chapter-Rise of Territorial Kingdoms and New Religious Sects

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Q.48) 'Yogacara' is associated with which of the following heterodox sects?
a) Buddhism
b) Jainism
c) Hinduism
d) Ajivikas

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The Yogacara and Madhyamaka were the two principal schools of Mahayana Buddhism in India. The Doctrine **of universal emptiness of inherent natures (svabhava-sunyata)** is the hallmark of the Madhyamaka school. The Madhyamaka school believes that all **things are empty of inherent natures.**
The **Yogacara school combined** earlier Buddhist practice of **analysing mental processes with the Madhyamik notion of emptiness.** This is also called as Vijnanavada and proposes that the reality perceived by Humans doesn't exist and that only thing that exists is the Consciousness.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/34656/1/Unit-3.pdf

Q.49) Consider the following statements
1. It is the birthplace of eleventh tirthankara Shreyansanath.
2. It is also an important Buddhist site.
3. The Bodhisattva statue in this area mentions Kushana ruler Kanishka.
4. It is located on the confluence of Ganga and Gomti river.
Which of the following regions is described in the above given statements?
a) Mathura
b) Sarnath
c) Pataliputra
d) Shravasti

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Shreyansanath was the eleventh Jain Tirthankara and he was born to King Vishnu and Queen Vishna at **Simhapuri in Sarnath** in the Ikshvaku dynasty.
Sarnath is an important Buddhist site, it is here that Buddha gave his first sermon. The deer park in Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha gave hi**s first sermon**. In addition, the **Dhamek Stupa**, a massive stupa is situated in Sarnath.
The inscription on the **Bala Bodhisattva statue** situated in **Sarnath** states that **Kanishka** who ruled from his capital in Mathura had **several satraps (**provinces) under his commands in order to rule his vast territory.
Sarnath is a place located 10 kilometers north-east of Varanasi near the **confluence of the river Ganga and Gomti**

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Source: https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1096/

Q.50) "It is a dryland crop and relies on rainfall for irrigation. It is not a native crop of India though it is mainly grown in southern part of India. The crop is grown for the nut which is used in the production of products such as pan masala and gutka. Currently, its cultivators are facing an unfair challenge as imports of cheaper varieties from Bhutan have dragged down the price of the product".
Which of the following crop varieties is described in the above given paragraph?
a) Catechu
b) Arecanut
c) Tobacco
d) Poppy seeds

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Areca nut is a tropical crop generally **known as the betel nut**. It is a palm tree species under the family of Arecaceae. It is not a native crop of India. It is generally believed to be native to Malaysia or Philippines where it is grown in many varieties.
• It is considered as a commercial crop at the national level and dry fruit at the international level. Indonesia is the top exporter of Arecanut and Thailand is the top importer. Various compounds present in the nut, including arecoline contribute to histologic changes in the oral mucosa. It is known to be a major risk factor for cancers of the mouth and esophagus.
• Arecanut, also known as betel nut or supari, is an important crop in India and is grown mainly in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. The crop is grown for the nut which is used in the production of betel nut products such as pan masala, gutka, and Mawa.

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• The country's Arecanut farmers are faced with an unfair challenge as imports of cheaper varieties, especially from Bhutan, flooded the domestic markets and dragged down the price of the product after the central government relaxed import restrictions.
• In Karnataka, about 35-40 per cent of the crop has been affected in 2022. In September this year, the central government allowed the import of 17,000 tonnes of green (fresh) arecanut from Bhutan without a minimum import price (MIP).
Knowledge Base:
• In India there are two varieties of areca nut, also called **supari in Hindi language**. One is the white variety and the other is the red variety. Karnataka produces about 80% of the arecanut in the country, followed by Kerala and Assam. Sirsi Supari' (Both White and Red variety) a variety of the Arecanut, grown in Uttara Kannada has also received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag. It has a unique taste due to differences in chemical composition.
Source: Arecanut - JournalsOfIndia
Arecanut gets its first GI tag for 'Sirsi Supari' (thehindu.com)

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